Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*133. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESORUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the State Governments have been consulted before finalising the scheme;

(c) the manner in which Government propose to monitor implementation of the scheme; and

(d) whether the scheme would help the State Governments in improving the standard of elementary education in uniform manner?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme has evolved from the recommendations of the State Education Minister's Conference held in October 1998, to pursue universal elementary education in a mission mode.

Education Minister's conference had recommended the pursuit of Universal Elementary Education in a mission mode. A National Committee of Education Minister's under the Chairmanship of the Minister, Human Resoruce Development was set up on the recommendation of the conference to work out the approach to the mission mode. The Committee submitted its report in October, 1999. The draft framework for a holistic and convergent approach to UEE in the mission mode was circulated to the States for their comments. The scheme of Serva Shiksha Abhiyan was revised incorporating the suggestions made by the States and then discussed in an Education Secretaries Conference in November 1999. The Goals of the SSA are as follows:—

(i) All 6—14 age children in school/EGS centre/bridge course by 2003.

(ii) All 6—14 age children complete five year primary education by 2007.

(iii) All 6—14 age children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.

The approach is community-owned and village education Plans prepared in consultation with Panchayati Raj Institutions will form the basis of district elementary education plans. Funds to states would be channelised to registered societies at state level. There will be a focus on districts having low female literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will cover the entire country with a special focus on educational needs of girls. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other children in difficult circumstances.

The formal approval for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is under process and it is likely to be operationalised soon.

(c) The scheme is proposed to be monitored at all levels with community support.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Improving the quality of Higher Education

*134 MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to improve the quality of higher education, particularly in the Rural and suburban sectors;

(b) whether the colleges there are fully funded by the Government;

(c) whether Government extract qualitative work from the teachers; and

(d) whether Government have any plans to make colleges in the country self-supporting and independent of dependence on Government aid?